

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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/043 W

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P R 162045Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7938

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 4771

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, BR

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN CANDIDATES FOR OAS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

REF: (A) STATE 150187 (B) STATE 135357 (C) BRASILIA 1819

1. SUMMARY: THERE IS LACK OF COORDINATION IN GOB REGARDING CANDIDATES. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS USG NEUTRALITY BETWEEN GOB CANDIDATES FOR OAS SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS ATHYR GUIMARAES AND HELIO RIBEIRO DE OLIVERIA. BOTH CANDIDATES ARE WELL QUALIFIED AND BOTH APPEAR TO HAVE GOB SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME CONFUSION WITHIN THE GOB REGARDING CANDIDATES FOR OAS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. CANDIDATES, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY IN BRASILIA, ARE ATHYR GUIMARAES AND HELIO RIBEIRO DE OLIVEIRA. FRANCISCO ARAJUO SANTOS IS APPARENTLY NOT RPT NOT A CANDIDATED (REF B); FINANCE MINISTRY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT GUIMARAES. EMBASSY AND CONGEN RIO DE JANEIRO WERE UNABLE TO DEVELOP ANY INFORMATION ON SANTOS.

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3. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE (REF C), GUIMARAES IS WELL QUALIFIED FOR OAS POSITION AND HAS SUPPORT OF GOB FINANCE MINISTRY. FINANCE MINISTER FORMALLY REQUESTED EMBASSY'S SUPPORT FOR GUIMARAES, AND FINANCE MINISTRY GENERAL COUNSEL DORNELLES REITERATED THIS SUPPORT TO FINATT AS RECENTLY AS JUNE 15.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, HELIO RIBEIRO DE OLIVEIRA ALSO APPEARS

TO BE WELL QUALIFIED AND TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE GOB FOREIGN MINISTRY. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT EMBASSY, HE HAS HAD LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER AS GOB OFFICIAL SPECIALIZING IN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, AND HE ALSO HAS HAD EXPERIENCE WITH THE IDB IN WASHINGTON. OLIVEIRA RECENTLY CONFIED TO E/C COUNSELOR THAT HE HAD FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SUPPORT AND FULLY EXPECTED TO ASSUME POSISITION. EMBASSY, DESPITE REPEATED ATTEMPTS, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO VERIFY WITH DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SUPPORT FOR OLIVEIRA.

5. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT USG TAKE NEUTRAL STANCE ON SELECTION OF CANDIDATE AND LET OAS SYG ORFILA MAKE CHOICE BASED ON HIS EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES AND PRESSURES BROUGHT TO BEAR ON HIM BY BRAZILIAN EMBASSY/OAS DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON. MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IS THAT BOTH CANDIDATES APPEAR WELL QUALIFIED FOR POSITION.
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